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2019

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The Kalifornski

A publication of the
Slavic American Cultural Organization

*To inform and educate Slavic Americans as well as others
of the Slavic Culture and history*



Presentation of President's Sounding Block and Gavel by Gospodnetich-Solano Family

In the 40 years of existence, one thing has always been missing and that was an official gavel and block to be used by the President during meetings and special functions. In memory of Patricia Gospodnetich Solano, SACO's founding President, her family has now gifted one to be used for many years to come. Happy Anniversary SACO!



L-R: Alex Solano, President Linda Pavlovich, Susan Solano and GeriAnne Solano-Simmons

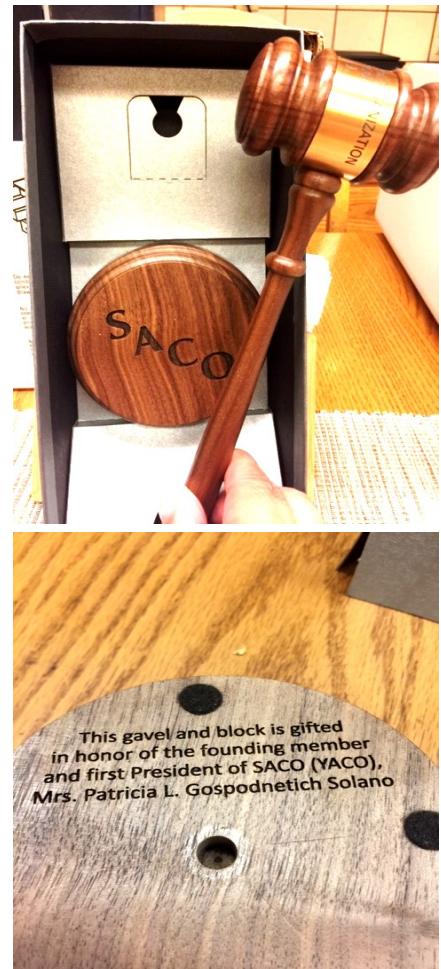


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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM SACO !



Treasurer's Report as of 8/31/19

By Susan Gallagher



Checking Account Balance \$31,200

Scholarship Account Balance \$6,490

July Barbeque Profit \$7,513.82

We'd like to thank the following individuals and families for donating prizes and/or desserts for the July BBQ. We couldn't do it without your help!

Balestrieri-Jennings, Basor Morrison, J. Basor, Biggs, Bloom, S. Bulich, Bulich-Schnitter, Clements, Clough, J. Colendich, M. Colendich, Davis, E. DelPiero, Dobler, Dugger, Eiskamp, Edelmaier, Espejo, Franich, Franusich, Freitas, Gallagher, Gisdich, Gribble, Hager, Heebner, Leonardich, Lukrich, Mann, McGrath, Michielssen, Mueller, Novotny, Radich, Schimpeler, Shean, Simmons, Solano, Spain, Ucovich, J. Vukasovich, Wilson, Zaninovich and all others who contributed.

2019 Scholarship Donations

Thank you to the following families for donating to the 2019 high school scholarship fund:

Robert & Lillie Salatich Bailey, Estella Basor & Kent Morrison, Brad & Susan Bennett, Michelle Leonardich Bowling, Robert & Judith Burrick, Deanne Dobler Cagnacci, Mark & Mary Clifton, Roy & Ana Cook, Jane Dabo Cruz, Ann Dabo, Eric & Teresa Del Piero, John & Judy Eiskamp, Linda Espejo, Susan Gallagher, Nita Gisdich, Vince Gisdich, Chuck & Geri Heebner, Lizz Matulich Hunter, Louis Ivanovich Family, Kathleen Johnson, Linda Jurickovich Kalman, Barbara Anne King, Peter Knego, Martin & Anita Lasich, Paul & Toni Lerandeau, Richard McAbee, Ann Moresco, Fred & Phyllis Meurer, Pauline Dabo Mifsud, Kathryn Mekis Miller, Mato Paljetak, Mark & Carol Pista, Radovan & Stacy Radich, Garret Rajkovich, David & Maryann Bulich Schnitter, Stephanie Schnitter, Tom & GeriAnne Simmons, Helen Ukestad, John Vodanovich, Kirt Vojvoda Family, Michael & Nancy Wagoner and Mrko Zaninovich Family.



Mr. Mark Davis

If your Croatian Ancestors hail from the
ISLAND OF KORCULA,
please call Maryann Bulich Schnitter
at #(408) 828-5206

President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer with family and friends. Now with the students back in school I am wondering where the summer has gone.

Our July 7th. barbecue was very well attended with over 380 guests served. Since this is the 40th. year for SACO, the Board of Directors wanted to do something special by bringing in music for the event. The very talented Petra Tulic performed for the audience with her piano keyboard and sang some very well known old Croatian songs along with current melodies. She gave an outstanding performance, and she also enjoyed being a part of the event. Petra was born in Zagreb and currently lives in Southern California.

On August 3rd, Maryann Bulich Schnitter, her sister Stephanie Bulich, and I traveled to Bakersfield to attend the All Slavonic American Association's Annual Barbecue. We had dinner with Marko Zaninovich that evening, and the next day we traveled to Delano to attend the All Slavonic Barbecue. It was great meeting new people and reuniting with friends. The barbecue was served family style with lamb kabobs, makarula, salad, sauerkraut and rolls. They did a wonderful job and made us feel very welcome.

At our June 18th. meeting, the Solano and Gospodnetich families presented the board with an engraved gavel in honor of Patricia Gospodnetich Solano, SACO's first president, to be used by this president and all future presidents going forward. It was a complete surprise and a very generous donation to the board. Thank you so much for your kind gesture.

We are preparing our new slate of officers for the next term that will be serving in 2020 and 2021. Our annual meeting will be held on January 25th. 2020, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. We will be sending a ballot to all members 30 days prior to the meeting for those who are unable to attend. Please RSVP when you receive the invitation. The meeting will start at 11:00 a.m., and lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Some lucky person will receive a door prize.

I hope to see all of you at the annual SAEP Barbecue in October. As always, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda K. Pavlovich

SACO Board Officers and Members-at-Large Elections

The SACO membership will be voting for Board Officers and Members-at-Large at our Annual Meeting on January 25, 2020, for the next two-year term. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Linda.Pavlovich@driscolls.com or by phone at (831) 595-5898. Please consider joining the board and contributing to this wonderful organization.



2020 SACO Scholarship Program for High School Seniors

The SACO Scholarship Application Packets will be available at the SACO Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2020. The completed applications with the required attachments must be received by WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020. Area high school students will receive application packets by January 29, 2020. For high schools not receiving scholarship information and applicants living out of the area, they may request a packet by calling one of the following committee members:

John Basor: (831) 254-2169
Judy Hager: (831) 588-9307

Maryann Bulich Schnitter: (408) 828-5206
Antonio Violich: (831) 359-0754



COLLEGE BOUND

SACO introduced its 2019 High School Scholarship Recipients at the organization's Annual July Picnic. Each of the students received an award of \$1,000. 00.

Pictured from left to right:

Carrie Frost (Aptos High -Cabrillo College)
Marko Zaninovich (Stevenson School-Cornell University)
Hunter Bobeda (Aptos High-Cabrillo College)
Mary Whitney (St. Francis-College of the Holy Cross)
Conner Taylor (Aptos High-CSU Monterey Bay)
Alessandra Balestieri-Jennings (Stevenson School-Sonoma St. Univ.)
Not pictured: Annabella Vlaicevic (Aptos High-Chapman Univ.)

Notes from the SAEP Committee by Eric Del Piero

Your SACO Student Ambassador and Exchange Program committee members have been working through the summer months in anticipation of our next two fundraising events. As many of you know, we are also beginning our application and selection process for exchange students who will be going to Croatia and Montenegro in June and July of 2020.

Our annual Fall BBQ, which will be held at the Pajaro Valley Historical Association on Sunday, October 6, will feature USDA Prime steaks. These special cuts of meat were a huge success last year and our BBQ team will repeat their magic skills at producing the best meal in town. Of course, all the proceeds from the BBQ event will be used to help with the student exchange program. An added bonus at the Historical Association is the opportunity to see the wonderful historical artifacts secured in the Borina Archive. Please RSVP for the BBQ by September 28, 2019.

Our fifth annual SAEP Gala Fundraising Dinner is scheduled for February 22, 2020. We will return to the Watsonville City Hall, Civic Plaza Community Room. This event will be a milestone for SACO and for the Student Ambassador and Exchange Program. During the last five years, thanks to the leadership and commitment of SACO members, we have established lasting relationships with the cities of Cavtat and Dubrovnik in Croatia. And, SACO is now recognized by local and national leaders as representing the important historical, financial and cultural contributions to California by our relatives who immigrated from countries comprising the former Yugoslavia.

Please "pencil in" the date on your calendars for this wonderful dinner event. We will be presenting the new students (and their families) who have been chosen to represent SACO on the cultural exchange program. For these students, it will be the educational opportunity of a lifetime. Thank you for your continued support!

**SACO/Student Ambassador and Exchange Program
INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

Sunday, October 20, 2019, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

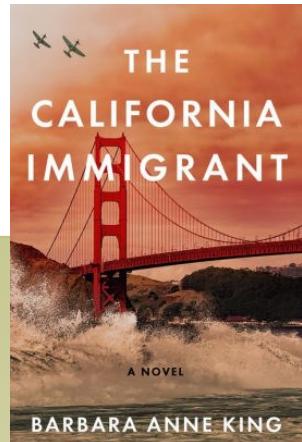
Knights of Columbus Hall, 230 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville

High School Students (Current Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors) and their parents are invited to learn about our upcoming exchange to Croatia and Montenegro in the summer of 2020. Light refreshments will be served.

Applications are due by December 9, 2019. For more information call: 831-722-2481

New Novel Reveals the Drama in Watsonville During World War II

(submitted by: Maryann Bulich Schnitter)



Bio of Barbara Anne King

I was born and raised in Watsonville, California by parents of Croatian and German descent. My father, Peter Tovaraz, was a second-generation Croatian-American, who lived most of his 90 years in Watsonville and worked as a civil servant and real estate broker. Both his parents were Croatian immigrants. His mother, Anna Bakich, was brought to Watsonville in 1906 at the age of 14 years from Cilipi, Croatia by her uncle, Luke Scurich, a pioneer in the town's apple industry. Anna lived with her other uncle, Steven Scurich, and his family until she married Martin Tovaraz, an entrepreneur, who had immigrated from Ston, Croatia. My father met my mother, Pearl, after he returned from serving in World War II. She had come to town for a nursing position at Watsonville Hospital. My sister, Jean Johnson, also a nurse, still lives in Watsonville.

I graduated Watsonville High School in 1971 and earned a political science degree from UCLA in 1975. Then I headed east for an internship with our congressman and continued to work on Capitol Hill as a legislative aide for several years.

I moved to Dallas, Texas to pursue a broadcast journalism career and became an anchor and reporter for KRLD, an all-news station and CBS affiliate. That led to a management position in public affairs for the Zale Corporation, the world's largest jewelry company. I met and married my husband, Roger King, in Dallas and followed him to New York City when he accepted a finance position on Wall Street.

We started our family in the lower Manhattan neighborhood of Battery Park City on the Hudson River where 9/11 occurred a decade later. From my apartment I looked out on Ellis Island and often thought of my grandparents who immigrated through there, imagining more of their history than I actually knew. In 1992, we moved to the suburbs to purchase a home for our growing family. We have lived in Weston, Connecticut for 27 years where we raised our three children: Alexander, Natalie, and Jared, all college graduates and gainfully employed.

As an empty nester, I realized there was no time like the present to embark on a writing career which I had considered for a long time. But it wasn't until I discovered so many interesting facts about Watsonville's history during the first half of the 20th Century that I felt compelled to write *The California Immigrant*. My mission was to document a place in time and pull all the scattered facts together into a story that brought history to life and created a memorable reading experience, especially for people connected to the town.

My one dilemma was how to get into the story. A trip to Croatia in 2016 solved that problem. In preparation for the visit, I did some ancestry research online and came across an article about my grandfather that someone had posted. As we toured Croatia, my unconscious mind was continually working on the story. Then one day it struck me that the protagonist should be a Croatian immigrant shaped by the details from my grandfather's story. After that decision, the story almost wrote itself while I followed a timeline of historical facts and left room for serendipity to play its part.

It has been very gratifying that people in Watsonville, especially those of Croatian descent, have embraced my book and are spreading the word. And just like James Joyce who couldn't write about Dublin until he left, the distance has given me perspective and an appreciation for the many diverse historical events that have made Watsonville a special place in which we can take much pride.

"The California Immigrant" by Barbara Anne King, is an enthralling historical fiction novel chronicling the events of World War II as experienced in one American small town. This is Barbara's debut novel and the first one in her Monterey Bay Series. Barbara was born and raised in Watsonville. After graduating from UCLA with a degree in political science, she headed east for a job on Capitol Hill. She also worked in broadcast journalism and corporate public affairs before trading the work world for the home front to raise three children. She and her husband live in Connecticut.

"The California Immigrant" is available at Kelly's Brooks in Watsonville. It is also available on Amazon as a Kindle e-book and paperback book. Go to www.Amazon.com and get your copy now to begin reading this incredible story about a small American town caught up in the drama of World War II. Contact: Author@barbaraanneking.com.

THE REPUBLIC OF DUBROVNIK FINAL CRISIS



VESNA ČUČIĆ

The Republic of Dubrovnik – Final Crisis

By: Vesna Čučić, Dubrovnik scholar and author

(submitted by: Donna Mekis)

"Vesna Čučić's monograph begins in the context of the French decision to seize Dubrovnik in 1806. The great game after the Third Coalition and the Peace of Pressburg (1805) led to the Franco-Russian conflict in the Bay of Kotor, where the Austrian authorities, under the pressure of the anti-French local movement, did not pass the Bay to the French, as provided by the Peace of Pressburg, but to the Russians instead. The French then occupied Dubrovnik under the pretext that Dubrovnik's neutrality was compromised. Ms. Čučić's approximations about the number of French troops on the territory of Dubrovnik (between 1,100 and 5,000) are particularly telling, as is her account of the role they played in combat against

the Russo-Montenegrin army during the Russian siege of Dubrovnik, as well as on the nature of the siege itself, which has been downplayed in previous accounts. This episode, made notorious by the pillage and burning of Konavle, Cavtat, and a number of suburban settlements, has lived in the collective memory of Dubrovnik and helped legitimate the French contributions in defense of the city and its possessions. The arrival of fresh French troops in July 1806 repelled the Russian siege. These are unquestionably the best pages of the monograph and they stress the predatory nature of the Russian-Montenegrin effort...

The rest of the book takes up the consequences of the conflict, the expenditures that the Republic invested on the French army during the period of dual power (1806-1808), and the damage caused by Russians, Montenegrins, and Orthodox Herzegovinians. The biggest damages were incurred in Gruž, Rijeka dubrovačka, and Konavle, and in Konavle, most especially in Čilipi, as well as Bačev Do and Gruda. Most houses were burned in Konavle (235), Župa (188) and borgo Pile (134); in percentages: in Obod (84.21%) and Pile (47.69%). Nor was the number of victims insignificant. According to some accounts there were 581 dead only in Konavle, and in the city itself, perhaps more than 150. Ms. Čučić clearly demonstrates that we have underestimated the last crisis of the Republic of Dubrovnik. This was not just the story of the French occupation but, in a far greater measure, that of the savagery committed by the Russo-Montenegrin forces....

Dubrovnik's last crisis was a confrontation between a small patrician oligarchy and modernity, as represented by a self-made emperor and his military force, both being products of the French Revolution, which is to say that they were dedicated to undermining the institutions of old Europe....

"Thanks to the translation of this valuable book, many new readers will discover the circumstances of Dubrovnik's collapse in all of their depressing detail. Ms. Čučić deserves our thanks and recommendation."

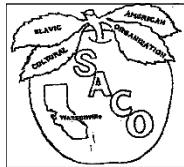
Ivo Banac, Ph. D., Professor of History Emeritus, Yale University. *Dubrovnik Annals* 19 (2015), p. 150-151

Published by: CroLibertas Publishers, Chicago, 2014. Language: English

CroLibertas Publishers, 19121 Wildwood Ave., Lansing IL 60438

ISBN-13: 978-0-9888983-1-8; 231 pages, paperback. This book is a translation of *Posljednja kriza Dubrovačke republike* published by the Croatian Academy Sciences and Arts in 2003.

Not only is Vesna Čučić a well known scholar in Dubrovnik, she is also the former Head Librarian at the Dubrovnik Archives. To order this book contact: crolibertas.publishers@gmail.com. The price is \$25. including shipping.



**SLAVIC AMERICAN CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION
P.O. BOX 226
WATSONVILLE, CA 95077**

A Non-Profit, Non-Religious &
Non-Political Organization
Established in 1979

All contributions are tax
deductible with the meaning of
Section 501 (c)(3) of the
Internal Revenue Code
Federal Tax I.D.#94-2885274

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS
members and the public are welcome!

The SACO Board of Directors currently meets the 3rd Tuesday
of every month at the Driscoll's Inc. office
located on Westridge Drive, Building #300,
Watsonville, CA from 7:00-9:00 PM.
We hope to see you there!

The Slavic American Cultural Organization is a non-profit corporation established in Watsonville in 1979 to bring together the Slavic community of the former Republics of Yugoslavia which are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia for social and recreational purposes and to instill in the membership a pride in the cultural heritage, traditions and contributions of the Slavic Americans in Santa Cruz County. A large percentage of the local, current, and active members have a Croatian heritage.

Please support Ivo Basor with Bailey Properties.
Ivo and his family are founding members and great
contributors of SACO.



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SACO Members cheered on Borna Gojo from Croatia at the Nordic Naturals Challenger held at Seaside. Borna, a 21 year old from Split, and his coach, Vela Zovko, were hosted by SACO Members, John and Sylvia Kusanovich, during the tennis tournament. Borna played on the Men's Tennis team for three years at Wake Forest before turning pro this year. Currently he is training in Croatia, and he will resume touring at the end of September.

Back row, left to right:

Annie Edelmaier, Tina Capkovic (visiting from Brac), John Kusanovich and Borna Gojo.

SACO Board of Directors

2018 & 2019

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Front row left to right: Maryann Bulich Schnitter, Frannie Colendich and Vela Zovko (coach)